

Message Text

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ACTION NSF-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-03 FS-01 ABF-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OFA-01 COME-00 /036 W

----- 130849

R 301140Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 340

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 4892

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, PK

SUBJECT: NSF/SFCP: WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE

PROJECT: OFFICIAL TRAVEL OF DRS. COLIN P. SUMMERHAYES AND B.U. HAQ

REF: A) STATE 63453; B) KARACHI 968; AND C) ISLAMABAD 4861

1. SUMMARY. WOODS HOLE SCIENTISTS DRS. SUMMERHAYES AND HAQ VISITED CONGEN KARACHI AND THIS EMBASSY AND REVIEWED REASON FOR THEIR TRIP AND REPORTED ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION BY PAK NAVY AND PAK SCIENCE COUNCIL. UNFORTUNATELY, TEAM ARRIVED WITHOUT ANY CONCRETE ENDORSEMENT BY NSF EXCEPT AS INFERRED IN REFTTEL A. EMBASSY STILL AWAITING OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT BY USG WHICH TEAM CLAIMS WAS PROMISED THEM BY NSF OFFICIAL (MR. KARL OLSONI). END SUMMARY.

2. CONGEN KARACHI REPORT ON MEETING WITH TEAM ON MAY 28 IS REPEATED BELOW. QUOTE. I WAS VISITED YESTERDAY BY DOCTORS HAQ AND SUMMERHAYS OF WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION WHO ARE HERE IN CONNECTION WITH A PROPOSED JOINT PROJECT WITH PAKISTAN NAVY OM MARINE GEOLOGY OF THE NORTHERN ARABIAN SEA. THIS PROJECT HAS APPARENTLY BEEN DISCUSSED BY WOODS HOLE
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AND PN FOR SOME TIME. IT WAS SUBMITTED BY WOODS HOLE

TO NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION FOR RUPEE FUNDING IN JANUARY. NSF APPARENTLY AGREED ONLY LAST WEEK TO FINANCE AN EXPLORATORY TRIP TO PAKISTAN BY THE TWO AMERICAN SCIENTISTS. PROJECT WOULD ENTAIL EXPENDITURES OF AROUND \$500,000, HALF IN RUPEES, HALF IN DOLLARS, AND WOULD EMPLOY TWO OCEANOGRAPHIC VESSELS, ONE US, ONE PAKISTANI. THIS CONGEN FIRST HEARD ABOUT PROJECT VIA A LETTER OF MAY 9 FROM PN DIRECTOR OF HYDROGRAPHY HEYS IN KARACHI, BUT WE HAVE TO DATE HAD NO NOTIFICATION FROM NSF OR ANY OTHER WASHINGTON AGENCY. HAQ AND SUMMERHAYES TOLD ME THEY ARE GOING TO ISLAMABAD 29 MAY AND HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH STEVE RICHTER ON MORNING 30 MAY.

3. DURING THEIR CALL ON ME, THE TWO AMERICAN SCIENTISTS RELAYED A PN SUGGESTION THAT, ON THE SCIENTISTS' RETURN FROM ISLAMABAD NEXT WEEK, THEY SHOULD HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE IN KARACHI TO PUBLICIZE THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT. THEY ALSO RELAYED SUGGESTION THAT I MIGHT HOST SOCIAL FUNCTION ON THIS OCCASION. UPON MY QUESTIONING, THEY SAID THAT PN'S PURPOSE IN SUGGESTING SUCH PUBLICITY WAS TO PERSUADE GOP OF VALUE OF FUNDING A FULL-FLEDGED PAKISTANI HYDROGRAPHIC INSTITUTION UNDER PN AUSPICES.

4. I VETOED PROPOSAL FOR PUBLICITY AT THIS TIME AND DECLINED TO HOST SOCIAL EVENT ON TWO GROUNDS: A) THE PROJECT IS AT TOO PRELIMINARY A STAGE AND FULL NSF SPONSORSHIP IS CONTINGENT UPON A NEW AND MORE DETAILED PROJECT PROPOSAL TO BE FORMULATED ON THE BASIS OF PRESENT TRIP; B) SUCH A PROJECT IN INDIAN OCEAN COULD BE SENSITIVE IN PRESENT INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASPECTS THEREOF--NOT TO MENTION ADVISABILITY OF PROJECT ITSELF--WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY VETTED OUT BY A NUMBER OF INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES. THE SCIENTISTS INDICATED THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF MY POSITION, AND I FEEL REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT NEITHER THEY NOR PN WILL JUMP THE GUN. HOWEVER, EMBASSY, USIS AND/OR USDAO MIGHT TAKE OCCASION TO REINFORCE MY POSITION. UNQUOTE.

5. COMMENT. EMBASSY FULLY SUPPORTS CONGEN'S POSITION ON PUBLICITY AND RECEPTION. NEVERTHELESS, RATHER FULL AND FACTUAL PRESS NOTICE OF VISIT APPEARED IN AT LEAST ONE KARACHI NEWSPAPER MAY 30 WHICH DR. HAQ EXPLAINED AS BEING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNAVOIDABLE. AFTER MEETING WITH CONGEN, HE RECEIVED A VERY BRIEF PHONE CALL FROM PAK NEWS AGENCY APP ASKING HIM TO CONFIRM INFORMATION APP HAD RECEIVED FROM GOP-OWNED OIL AND GAS CORPORATION ABOUT THE PROJECT. DR. HAQ FELT HE COULD DO NO MORE THAN CONFIRM STATEMENT BUT EMPHASIZED THAT PROJECT WAS ONLY IN PLANNING STAGE. FROM WORDING OF ARTICLE, HAQ AND SUMMERHAYES SAY THAT OIL AND GAS CORPORATION MUST HAVE SHOWN OR GIVEN APP REPORTER COPY OF WOODS HOLE WRITTEN

PROPOSAL. SINCE SUMMARY OF PROJECT IS NOW OUT AND TEAM ISL
LARGELY NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR IT, EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE
ANYTHING FURTHER CAN OR SHOULD BE DONE. EMBASSY DOUBTS
THAT ARTICLE WILL CAUSE HARM HERE, BUT EMBASSY DELHI MIGHT
WISH REPORT OFFICIAL INDIAN REACTION, IF ANY.

6. WOODS HOLE TEAM IS VERY OPTIMISTIC THAT GOP WILL APPROVE
THIS PROJECT, ALTHOUGH GOP APPEARS TO HAVE INFLATED HOPES ON
AMOUNT OF FOREIGN EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES (\$10 MILLION WORTH,
OF WHICH \$6 MILLION FOREIGN EXCHANGE) WHICH CAN BE MADE
AVAILABLE. PROJECT CALLS FOR EXPLORING 90,000 SQUARE MILES
OF ARABIAN SEA OFF PAKISTAN COAST USING ONE PAK NAVY AND ONE
WOODS HOLE VESSEL IN 1976 AND 1977.

7. EMBASSY AND CONGEN KARACHI HOPE THAT IN FUTURE CASES OF
SUCH VISITS THAT BETTER ADVANCE NOTICE CAN BE GIVEN TO US
HERE. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR PROJECTS OF THIS
IMPORTANCE AND SIZE.
BYROADE

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